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Chief, Materials Division, ORR 11 June 1958

Chief, Ferrous Metals Branch, D/M/RR

Geographic Intelligence Review "A Survey of Developments in Asiatic USSR", CIA/RR-MR-54 February 1958

1. Although we have been consulted by analysts from the Geographic Area on much of the subject matter relating to ferrous metallurgy, the chapter in its present form was not coordinated with us.

2. The iron ore and ferrous metallurgical sections of the report add nothing to intelligence research on these subjects and in some respects are inaccurate. The statement (page 8) "The major stimulus to exploitation (of iron ore in Asiatic USSR) has been the difficulty European USSR has encountered in mining sufficient ore to support its expanding iron and steel industry" implies that reserves of iron ore in European USSR are inadequate. This is almost certainly not so--delays in expanding iron ore production in European USSR are no more serious than those in Asiatic USSR and arise from much the same cause--inadequate investment allocations and inefficient management.

3. The chapter is too superficial in its treatment of the subject to warrant further comment. The accompanying map, however, is quite helpful.

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